

Wildlife Health: West Nile Virus Avian Summary 2002

By TJ Whyte and Kerry Beheler

Abstract

Wildlife biologists, conservation wardens, and the general public submitted the following birds to the Wildlife Health Program for West Nile Virus (WNV) testing in 2002. Bird submission was greatly facilitated with aid from Dr. Linda Glaser, Wisconsin Public Health Department, and the WNV Hotline staffed by USDA personnel. WNV mosquito season ran primarily from May to October. Majority of birds collected in 2002 were corvids (crows, blue jays, ravens). Corvids were primarily tested to monitor West Nile Virus activity in the state as they appear to be the most sensitive bird species affected by WNV mortality, and hence can indicate possible human exposure risk. 439 crows were tested in WI, with 246 positive; 166 blue jays were tested with 75 positive; 3 ravens were tested with two positive.

Due to concerns about other bird species WNV susceptibility, WDNR tested bald eagles (14), raptors (13), songbirds (7), waterbirds (8), upland game birds (2), and other species (5 squirrels) for WNV in 2002. One each tundra swan, mourning dove, cardinal, and downy woodpecker had WNV detected in their tissues. One each bald eagle, merlin, sharp-shinned, Coopers, and red-tailed hawks had WNV detected in their tissues. Two Northern goshawks and 3 gray squirrels had WNV detected in their tissues.

Table 1. West Nile Virus results, 2002

| County | # Total / Species | # Total Mortalities /WNV Result |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| Adams | (1) American Crow | 1 Positive |
| | (1) Blue Jay | 1 Positive |
| | (1) Coopers Hawk | 1 Positive |
| | (3) Bald eagle | 3 Negative |
| Ashland | (1) American Crow | 1 Positive |
| | (1) Raven | 1 Positive |
| Barron | (3) American Crow | 3 Positive |
| | (1) Blue Jay | 1 Positive |
| | (1) House Finch | 1 Negative |
| | (1) Great Blue Heron | 1 Negative |
| | (1) Cardinal | 1 Positive |
| | (1) Downy Woodpecker | 1 Positive |
| Bayfield | (1) American Crow | 1 Positive |
| | (1) Red-tailed Hawk | 1 Negative |
| | (1) Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 Negative |
| | (1) Great Blue Heron | 1 Negative |
| Brown | (17) American Crow | 17 Positive |
| Buffalo | (2) American Crow | 2 Positive |
| | (1) Peregrine Falcon | 1 Negative |
| | (1) Red-tailed Hawk | 1 Positive |
| Burnett | (2) American Crow | 2 Positive |
| | (4) Blue Jay | 4 Positive |
| Calumet | (4) American Crow | 4 Positive |

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| Chippewa | (5) American Crow (1) Sharp-shinned Hawk | 5 Positive 1 Negative |
| Clark | (2) American Crow (4) Blue Jay (1) Red-tailed Hawk | 2 Positive 4 Positive 1 Negative |
| Columbia | (2) American Crow | 2 Positive |
| Crawford | (1) American Crow (1) Blue Jay (1) Tundra Swan | 1 Positive 1 Positive 1 Positive |
| Dane | (23) American Crow (2) Gray Squirrel | 23 Positive 2 Negative |
| Dodge | (1) Ring-billed Gull | 1 Negative |
| Door | (1) American Crow (1) Blue Jay | 1 Positive 1 Positive |
| Douglas | (3) American Crow (1) Raven (1) Great Egret (2) Common Tern (3) Bald Eagle (1) Northern Goshawk | 3 Positive 1 Negative 1 Negative 2 Negative 3 Negative 1 Positive |
| Dunn | (2) American Crow | 2 Positive |
| Eau Claire | (3) American Crow | 3 Positive |
| Fond du Lac | (3) American Crow | 3 Positive |
| Forest | (1) American Crow (1) Blue Jay | 1 Positive 1 Positive |
| Grant | (3) Blue Jay (3) Bald Eagle | 3 Positive 3 Negative |
| Green | (5) American Crow (1) Blue Jay | 5 Positive 1 Positive |
| Green Lake | (2) American Crow (4) Blue Jay | 2 Positive 4 Positive |
| Iowa | (3) American Crow | 3 Positive |
| Jackson | (2) American Crow (3) Blue Jay | 2 Positive 3 Positive |
| Jefferson | (7) American Crow (1) Blue Jay | 7 Positive 1 Positive |
| Juneau | (3) American Crow (1) Blue Jay (2) Bald eagle | 3 Positive 1 Positive 2 Negative |

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| Kenosha | (6) American Crow (2) Blue Jay | 6 Positive 2 Positive |
| La Crosse | (4) American Crow | 4 Positive |
| Lafayette | (3) American Crow (5) Blue Jay (1) Red-tailed Hawk | 3 Positive 5 Positive 1 In Process |
| Langlade | (2) American Crow | 2 Positive |
| Lincoln | (1) American Crow (2) Blue Jay | 1 Positive 2 Positive |
| Manitowoc | (3) American Crow (3) Blue Jay (3) Mourning Dove | 3 Positive 3 Positive 2 Negative 1 Positive |
| Marathon | (3) American Crow (2) Blue Jay | 3 Positive 2 Positive |
| Marinette | (3) American Crow | 3 Positive |
| Marquette | (1) American Crow (5) Blue Jay | 1 Positive 5 Positive |
| Milwaukee | (18) American Crow (1) Blue Jay (1) Northern Goshawk (1) Merlin (3) Gray Squirrel | 18 Positive 1 Positive 1 Positive 1 Positive 3 Positive |
| Monroe | (1) American Crow (3) Blue Jay (1) Coopers Hawk (1) Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 Positive 3 Positive 1 Negative 1 Positive |
| Oconto | (1) Bald Eagle | 1 Positive |
| Oneida | (6) American Crow (2) Blue Jay | 6 Positive 2 Positive |
| Outagamie | (7) American Crow (6) Blue Jay | 7 Positive 6 Positive |
| Ozaukee | (5) American Crow | 5 Positive |
| Pierce | (2) American Crow (1) Blue Jay | 2 Positive 1 Positive |
| Polk | (2) American Crow (2) Blue Jay | 2 Positive 2 Positive |
| Portage | (1) American Crow (1) Blue Jay (1) Raven | 1 Positive 1 Positive 1 Positive |
| Price | (5) American Crow | 5 Positive |

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| Racine | (11) American Crow | 11 Positive |
| Richland | (3) American Crow (1) Wild Turkey | 3 Positive 1 Negative |
| Rock | (3) American Crow (1) Blue Jay | 3 Positive 1 Positive |
| Rusk | (3) American Crow (1) Blue Jay (1) Sandhill Crane | 3 Positive 1 Positive 1 In Process |
| Sauk | (3) American Crow | 3 Positive |
| Shawano | (4) American Crow (2) Blue Jay | 4 Positive 2 Positive |
| Sheboygan | (11) American Crow | 11 Positive |
| St. Croix | (4) American Crow | 4 Positive |
| Taylor | (4) American Crow | 4 Positive |
| Trempealeau | (2) American Crow (1) Blue Jay (1) Ruffed Grouse | 2 Positive 1 Positive 1 Negative |
| Vilas | (1) American Crow (3) Blue Jay | 1 Positive 3 Positive |
| Walworth | (4) American Crow | 4 Positive |
| Washburn | (1) Blue Jay (2) Bald Eagle (1) Common Grackle | 1 Positive 2 Negative 1 Negative |
| Washington | (5) American Crow | 5 Positive |
| Waukesha | (7) American Crow | 7 Positive |
| Waupaca | (2) American Crow (1) Blue Jay | 2 Positive 1 Positive |
| Waushara | (1) American Crow (2) Blue Jay | 1 Positive 2 Positive |
| Winnebago | (3) American Crow (1) Blue Jay | 3 Positive 1 Positive |
| Wood | (3) American Crow (1) Blue Jay | 3 Positive 1 Positive |